

WASHINGTON, DC – Today Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced the kick off of the 2010 U.S. Census. The 23rd national census of the United States is scheduled to take place one year from today on April 1, 2010. The census will seek to completely and accurately count and survey the entire U.S. population.

“Next year when the census commences it will be vital that everyone in our community participate,” said Rep. Moore. “The census only occurs once every 10 years but its impact can have a lasting effect. The amount of federal funding our community and state receive is all based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s survey as well as how many seats our state is allotted in Congress.”

The results of the Census count will determine the amount of federal funds states and municipalities across the country receive for public safety, transportation and other vital programs. In addition, the Census determines the districts of the state legislature and the number of seats that Wisconsin will have in the United States Congress.

To ensure an accurate count, the Complete Count Committee-- the committee charged with administering the census through Wisconsin municipalities-- will focus on finding individuals who have traditionally been left out of the census, including those below the poverty level, those receiving public assistance and those who speak a language other than English. Sharon Robinson, the City of Milwaukee’s Director of Administration, is the committee’s chairwoman.

Historically, the state of Wisconsin’s participation in the census has exceeded other states. However, many in the state are still hoping for improvement for the next census by getting an accurate count of past census populations that were under-represented. Next year the citizens of Milwaukee and the nation will receive surveys from the U.S. Census Bureau and will be asked to fill in questions about the number of persons living in their home-- including citizens, non-citizen legal residents, non-citizen long-term visitors. By law, neither the census takers nor any other Census Bureau employee is permitted to reveal identifiable information about any person, household, or business.

“For the next census we need to ensure that the Latino, African American, Hmong and Native American communities are accurately counted. And the only way that can occur is if everyone participates in the survey. Not letting your voice be heard during the once in a decade census does a disservice to the entire community.”
Census questionnaires will be mailed in early 2010 and are due April 1, 2010.

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